

1.

Is water baptism a necessary part of the Christian experience? In Mark 16:16, Jesus said, ***“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”*** So, water baptism *is* a requirement for Christians, unless they lack the opportunity, or their Christian confession happens on their death bed.

What does the Bible tell us about Baptism? In Acts 2:38, Peter said, ***“Repent, and be baptized.”*** So, repentance from sin is a prerequisite before baptism. If anyone has not repented first, they will enter the water a dry sinner, and emerge a wet sinner, and, as infants cannot repent, infant baptism serves no purpose, except as a ceremony for the religious.

The word baptise means to submerge under water, and emerge from it. In Romans 6:4, we are told, ***“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism.”*** So, obviously, baptism is by full immersion in water, not by pouring, or sprinkling.

In the Great Commission, (Matthew 28:19), Jesus said, ***“Go ye and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”***

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He said, ***‘name,’*** singular, not ***‘names,’*** plural. Father is not a name, neither is Son, nor is the Holy Spirit, they are merely **titles** to **that Name**. There are many fathers and sons in this world, but they are not named father or son, they do have personal names.

In Matthew 16:19, the Lord said to Peter, ***“And I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.”*** On the day of Pentecost, when the Jews realized they had crucified their Messiah, they asked, ***“Men and Brethren, what shall we do?”*** (Acts 2:37).

So, Peter used the keys to open the Kingdom to them, and tell them what that **Name** is. He said, ***“Repent, and be baptized every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ.”*** The Father does have a Name, so does the Son, so does the Holy Spirit, it is the **Lord Jesus Christ**. The One who created all things. (Colossians 1:16). The One who has all power in Heaven and on earth. (Matthew 28:18). So, Peter told them to do what Jesus had commanded him, and be baptised in *that* Name.

What other references does the Word of God have, as to how baptism took place?

3.

Acts 8:14-16. *‘Now when the Apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John. Who, when they were come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost (For as yet he was fallen on none of them: only they were baptized in the **Name** of the **Lord Jesus**).’*

Acts 10:47-48. *‘Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the **Name** of the **Lord**.’*

Acts 19:5. *‘When they heard this, they were baptized in the **Name** of the **Lord Jesus**.’*

So, Scripturally, Baptism is by full immersion in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the verse we read from Acts 19, Paul had just met Apollos, who had been baptised by John the Baptist; but Paul showed him that wasn’t good enough now, So, he commanded him to be **rebaptized**, in the **Name** of the **Lord Jesus**.

And, what if we have been baptised in the titles of, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, or

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sprinkled as a child? What would Paul say to us today? He would say exactly the same thing, and command us to be rebaptised, in Christian Baptism. Obedience is better than sacrifice. (1 Samuel 15:22). If anyone hasn't been baptised Scripturally, they haven't been baptised yet.

What does baptism do for us? It does not save us, nor forgive our sins. It is, as Peter puts it, *'The answer of a good conscience toward God.'* (1 Peter 3:21). It is a confession to the world, that we have accepted the death of Jesus Christ, as the death we deserved for our sins. We are buried under the water to symbolise that we died with him, and we are raised from the water, to express to the world that we have been raised to walk in newness of life as a Son, or daughter of God.

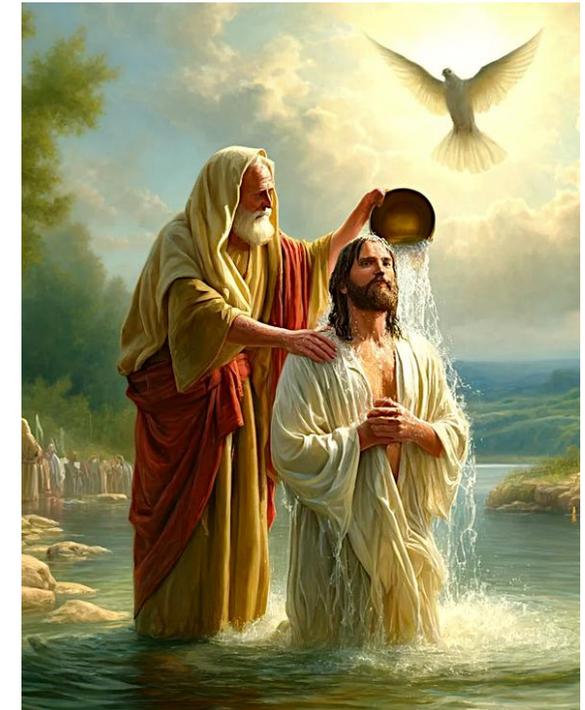
For the faithful, there is also the promise in Acts 2:38, that you can claim. *"And ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."* What is the Holy Ghost? It is Deity, Almighty God, living in you, the Temple of God. *'Christ in you, the hope of glory,'* as Paul puts it in Colossians 1:27.

5.

So, as the Ethiopian Eunuch asked Philip in Acts 8:36, *"What doth hinder me to be baptized?"* Or, rebaptized? Nothing.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

How should I be Baptised?



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